

Prefabricated Modular Building Component

Related Application

This application claims the benefit of priority, pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §120, from
copending application Ser. No. 09/608,816 filed June 30, 2000. *, Now US Patent No. 6804923, which claims
benefit of 60/142,273. filed July 2, 1999,
Now abandoned.*

Technical Field

This invention generally relates to a prefabricated modular building product finding particular utility in various building applications, including elevated deck structures, on-grade patio structures, and interior or exterior floor assemblies and wall assemblies.

Background of the Invention

Known building elements and systems for patios, decks, and walls, and flooring have substantial limitations.

Exterior patios, decks and wood platform structures have become commonplace additions to houses and other residential and commercial structures. A value of such structures is derived from an enlargement of the usable living space for entertainment, as well as an enhancement in the quality of outdoor activities such as relaxation. As a result, outdoor structures have become increasingly popular in residential home construction. Residential homes, as well as a variety of other buildings, often incorporate exterior decks into their design. Additionally, decks are commonly added onto existing structures.

Deck structures typically include a support structure and a deck surface. One dominant method of deck construction includes: (1) a number of vertical post anchored to the ground; (2) horizontal beams supported above the ground by the vertical posts; (3) a number of horizontal joints, parallel to and uniformly spaced apart from one another and anchored to the beams; and (4) a floor surface of decking planks arranged horizontally and above and perpendicular to the joists. Deck construction typically utilizes common dimensional lumber and entails site construction of the deck of a size and configuration which is unique to a particular site. Limitations of the common lumber-based deck structures are well known. During construction, warped or misshapen lumber impedes quick application of the decking lumber to the support